

Sec. Information

Document No. **6**  
 No Change In Class. **X**  
☐ Declassified  
 Class. Changed To: TO S B  
 Auth: NR 70-2  
 Date: **8-11-78** By: **35**  
 Memorandum for: The Director

6 November 1952

Subject: Congressional Leadership

1. The Republicans have secured a slim majority in both the Senate and the House. This will be sufficient to allow them to organize both bodies with Republican leadership and Republican committee chairmen.

2. The Speaker of the House will be Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, and in all probability the Majority Leader of the House will be Charles A. Halleck, of Indiana, who occupied that position in the 80th Congress. Neither of these men have had very much contact with or interest in CIA. In moments Mr. Halleck has been known to be critical of CIA with the general thesis that it should all be given to J. Edgar Hoover, of the FBI.

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giving up some CIA legislation

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3. Speaker Rayburn will become the Minority Leader of the House, with Congressman McCormack becoming the Minority Whip.

4. The leadership situation in the Senate is quite confused. The present Republican leader is Senator Styles Bridges, with Senator Saltonstall as the Minority Whip. Senator Bridges accepted the leadership only on a stopgap basis, and as Chairman-elect of the Senate Appropriations Committee he may not wish to retain active Floor leadership. The Taft forces blocked the advance of Senator Saltonstall to the Floor leadership at the time Senator Bridges was put in. However, in a harmony move, the Taft forces may allow Senator Saltonstall to become the Republican Floor leader, but if their opposition continues, a good bet for the position will be Senator Knowland, who is acceptable to the Taft forces and who was also on the Eisenhower train for much of the campaign. Under any condition, Senator Taft will be the dominating Republican force in the Senate and might conceivably take over the ~~title~~ title of Majority Leader.

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5. On the Democratic side, the situation is confused by the fact that the present Majority Leader, Senator McFarland, of Arizona, has been defeated. The present Majority Whip is Senator Lyndon Johnson, of Texas, but there is some question as to whether he will carry sufficient prestige to assume the position of Minority Leader in a party which is severely split between its northern left-wing and its southern right-wing.

Walter L. Pforzheimer  
Legislative Counsel

LC:WLPforzheimer/blc

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Asst to the Director (Col. Googan

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